

## Budget Brief: Workforce Financial Assistance

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

FY 2010

### SUMMARY

The Legislature established the Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program during the 2002 Legislative General Session by consolidating the Rural Physicians and Physician Assistants Grant and Scholarship Program, the Nurse Education Financial Assistance Program, and the Urban Special Population Health Care Provider Financial Assistance Program. The purpose of the combined Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program is to increase the number of health care professionals (physicians, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, mental health therapists, or other health care professionals) to provide primary health care services in medically underserved areas. This is done through educational loan repayment grants and scholarships in return for providing primary health care services for an obligated period of time. Funding for this program is designated as nonlapsing and is appropriated as a separate line item, in accordance with UCA 26-46-102(4).

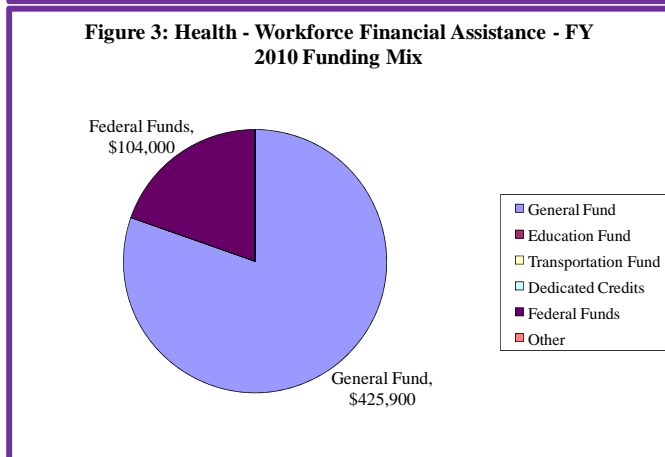
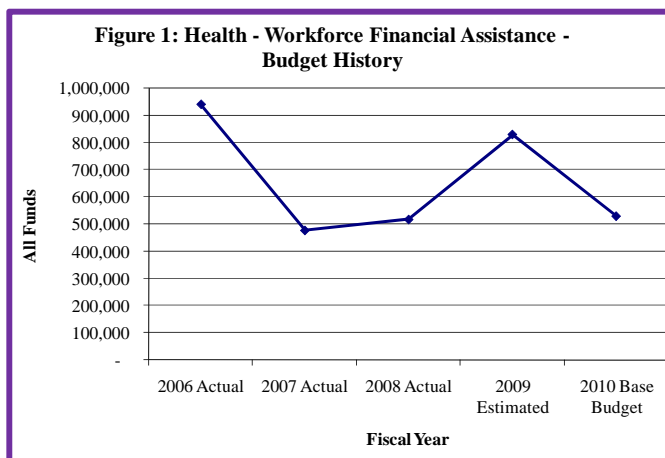
For more detailed information please see the Compendium of Budget Information for the 2009 General Session at [http://le.utah.gov/lfa/reports/cobi2009/LI\\_LCA.htm](http://le.utah.gov/lfa/reports/cobi2009/LI_LCA.htm).

### ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Analyst base budget recommendation is \$529,900. The budget has nonlapsing status by statute. Carry-over is used to assure the full payment of awards for the educational benefits promised by the program.

### ACCOUNTABILITY DETAIL

The chart below shows the number of grants approved, classified by healthcare profession, for the past five years. Also shown is the monetary impact of the awards. (Note: There is a delay in the approval of the awards and the payment for the educational benefits.) The goal is to maximize the number of individuals that can be recruited to provide primary care services in medically underserved areas of the state and strengthen Utah's health network.



HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HISTORY									
Health Care Professional	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Dentist	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	2	2
Mental Health Therapist	4	1	1	16	6	6	4	2	3
Nurse	23	14	0	19	10	14	12	11	16
Physician	11	10	3	13	10	3	5	11	3
Physician Assistant	3	0	1	2	0	0	6	1	3
Total Number of Grants	42	26	5	51	27	25	30	27	27
Funds	\$568,000	\$530,500	\$528,800	\$510,300	\$419,700	\$419,900	\$422,900	\$547,500	\$447,300

Of those individuals that have completed their service obligation, 83 percent have either remained in their original service areas or within the same county where their service obligation began. Placements have been made in 26 of Utah's 29 counties, allowing those communities the opportunity for more comprehensive primary health care services. Over the course of its existence, the program has provided funding to secure the obligation of a total of 916 years of service. In 2008, forty-six health care professionals at thirty-five employment sites met the minimum eligibility criteria. Twenty-seven, or 59% of those qualified health care professionals could be given awards with existing resources.

### **BUDGET DETAIL**

The budget listed in the table below details the budget allocations in the base budget bill.

<b>Health - Workforce Financial Assistance</b>						
<b>Sources of Finance</b>	<b>FY 2008 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2009 Appropriated</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>FY 2009 Revised</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>FY 2010* Base Budget</b>
General Fund	423,900	425,900	0	425,900	0	425,900
General Fund, One-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	104,000	0	104,000	104,000	0	104,000
Beginning Nonlapsing	639,400	350,000	(50,300)	299,700	50,300	350,000
Closing Nonlapsing	(649,700)	(350,000)	350,000	0	(350,000)	(350,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$517,600</b>	<b>\$425,900</b>	<b>\$403,700</b>	<b>\$829,600</b>	<b>(\$299,700)</b>	<b>\$529,900</b>
<b>Programs</b>						
Workforce Financial Assistance	517,600	425,900	403,700	829,600	(299,700)	529,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$517,600</b>	<b>\$425,900</b>	<b>\$403,700</b>	<b>\$829,600</b>	<b>(\$299,700)</b>	<b>\$529,900</b>
<b>Categories of Expenditure</b>						
Personal Services	18,400	18,600	1,900	20,500	0	20,500
In-State Travel	300	1,600	0	1,600	0	1,600
Current Expense	495,800	402,700	400,900	803,600	(299,700)	503,900
DP Current Expense	1,100	3,000	900	3,900	0	3,900
Capital Outlay	2,000	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$517,600</b>	<b>\$425,900</b>	<b>\$403,700</b>	<b>\$829,600</b>	<b>(\$299,700)</b>	<b>\$529,900</b>
<b>Other Data</b>						
Budgeted FTE	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3

\*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

Adoption of this base budget as listed in this document enables the programs to continue for the next fiscal year at relatively the same level as the current fiscal year. No additional changes have been requested by the Governor or recommended by the Analyst.

- The Analyst recommends that the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee approve a base budget for FY 2010 for Workforce Financial Assistance in the amount of \$529,900.